present 3 Expert Committees and 4 Task Forces are operating in the Ministry of Agriculture. The relevant details are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(c) In view of the fact that it is proposed to introduce an alternative crop to tobacco, constituting a Task Force or an Expert Committee to study tobacco related problems is not under consideration at present.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Expert Committee/Task Force and subject	Date of formation
1.	**Expert Committees**	
(i)	Working group of experts to review the cattle and buffaloes breeding policies.	January, 1992
(ii)	Expert Committee on strengthening the network of Veterinary Health Services in the country.	October, 1994
(iii)	Expert Committee to evaluate progress of Animal Quarantine and Certification Scheme.	November, 1994
2.	**Task Forces**	
(i)	Task force to look into the problems of breeding programmes of Sheep and Goats and their evaluation, role of Research and Development and the problems which need urgent attention of researchers.	April, 1993
(ii)	Task force to review the Cotton production and other related matters.	September 1994
(iii)	Task force to review the Jute production, quality, improvement of fibre and other related matters.	October 1994
(iv)	Task force on terms of trade between Agricultural and Non-agricultural Sectors.	March, 1993

Study on Business Development Planning

2730. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a study on 'Business Development Planning' for the growth of Industrial and Handloom co-operative societies in the country had been recently conducted jointly by his Ministry and the National Co-operative Union of India;

(b) if so, what are its main findings; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fine and Superfine Paddy

2731. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the difference between the fine and superfine paddy has become a bone of contention again this year, with farmers protesting that Government are procuring their 'better' produce at cheaper rates; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that though Government treat the PR-106 variety as superfine; and therefore, purchases it at the official rate of Rs. 380 per quintal; yet Government procurement agencies were forcing the farmers to part with the produce Rs. 20 per quintal cheaper than the fixed rate; if so, what steps Government have taken to protect the farmer's interests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Different varieties of paddy are classified as common, fine and superfine and are purchased on the basis of Minimum Support Prices (MSP) declared for these varieties. MSP offer is available to a particular variety of paddy of fair average quality, according to the uniform specifications decided by the Central Government. The MSPs for common, fine and superfine are Rs. 340, Rs. 360 and Rs. 380 respectively per quintal for 1994-95 Kharif Marketing Season. PR-106 is classified as superfine variety. Permissible maximum percentage of admixture of lower variety of grains in paddy offered for sale is 10%.